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African Planners, Statisticians and
Demographers

Addis Ababa, 5-14 March 1984

EVALUATION OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS, STATISTICIANS AND DEMOGRAPHERS

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Introduction

1. The Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers is a relatively new ECA body, created by merging previously separate conferences in the three fields concerned. Its main objectives are to promote collaborative action at both national and regional levels and to provide a forum for technical examination of the main aspects of African development. The first two sessions of the joint conference were held in 1980 and 1982.

2. After the second session it was decided to evaluate the progress and performance of the joint conference in terms of attendance and the opinions of participants. The results are presented in the next two sections of this report and supporting data are given in five tables in the annex.

3. The last section of the report describes the conclusions of the secretariat and the resulting modification of arrangements in preparing for the third session of the joint conference.

Attendance at the first two sessions

4. Tables 1 and 2 in the annex summarise participation in the 1980 and 1982 sessions of the joint conference. While the figures are not startling, they do draw attention to a few points of interest and concern.

5. In the first session 34 African governments were represented. At the second session in 1982 only 26 African governments participated and this is a cause for concern. It may partly reflect shortage of travel funds but the few North African participants and the sharp decline in those from East Africa is notable.

6. The statisticians were the most strongly represented group at the 1980 session but the attendance of planners and demographers was proportionately higher in 1982, which suggests an attempt to achieve better balance. The number of embassy and other non-technical representatives also fell significantly, presumably in response to the plea by ECA. However the overall number of country participants fell from 94 to 70, reflecting the generally lower level of representation already noted.

7. There were 21 heads of planning and statistical services at both the 1980 and 1982 sessions, with a slightly improved proportion of planning heads at the latter. Not much can be said about the demographers in this respect because they are generally attached to national statistical services and, except in the case of census offices, do not have directors regarded as heads of services. However, in a few cases, the director of the national statistical office may himself be a demographer.

8. The participation of non-African countries remained at 7 - 8 in both meetings. There was fairly strong support by UN departments and agencies and the reduced number represented in 1982 results only from the withdrawal of some units not relevant to the conference. Attendance of inter-governmental organizations was fairly good.

Evaluation of the second session

9. An evaluation questionnaire was sent to all people who participated in the 1982 session of the conference. It resulted in a 67 per cent response, with a slightly higher proportion of replies from observers than from delegates. Details are given in Table 3.

10. A broad summary of the answers to individual questions is presented in Table 4. The questions were posed on the basis of good/fair/poor and yes/no assessments and the results have been expressed as percentage distributions of replies. In looking at these figures three constraints have to be taken into account: (1) the opinions of the 23 per cent of participants who did not reply are unknown (2) there is a tendency in answering this kind of questionnaire to be over-polite and (3) no weights have been applied in the total columns of Table 4 to deal with the differing response rates of delegates and observers, but this does not significantly affect conclusions.

11. Perhaps the main consideration to emerge from the evaluation was the observers' opinion of attendance by African countries. 28 per cent said it was poor and no other question in the survey elicited such a negative response; only 22 per cent of the observers thought that the attendance of national officials was good. The opinion of delegates themselves about their own attendance was little better and only 36 per cent described the position as good.

12. Feelings regarding the participation of other groups were fairly consistent on the part of delegates and observers. People would clearly have been happier if a few more non-African countries had participated, but the attendance of UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations and training and research centres was considered satisfactory.

13. 59 per cent of the observers, but only 36 per cent of the delegates, reported that documents had been received in good time before the meeting. As documents were despatched in batches at the same time to both groups, the difference probably reflects faster postal services to destinations outside the region. Much the same position is shown in the answers to the question on whether there was enough time to read the documents beforehand. There was a strong general feeling, at the 85 per cent level, that African countries should have a more active role in preparing conference documentation.

14. Administrative arrangements for the conference, i.e. meeting rooms hotels and local transportation, appear to have been considered satisfactory but were rated poorer by the delegates than by the observers. 17 per cent of the delegates described hotels as poor but this is probably related to their own choice of accommodation.

15. Opinions on the quality of conference documents were consistent and fairly low. Only 45 per cent of participants said the documents were good and another 45 per cent rated them as fair. There were no questions on the means of improving conference documentation, which might have provided useful supplementary information.

16. Both delegates and observers held much the same and quite strong views on the conference agenda. 74 per cent believed that it attempted to cover too many topics and 82 per cent said that there should be a more selective approach in choosing agenda items. In a related question on the amount of time which should be devoted to plenary discussions, 62 per cent of delegates and 72 per cent of observers put their answers in the lowest box provided, which was 50 per cent of total conference time. This was a fault in the questionnaire design because clearly some would prefer a much shorter time in plenary.

17. On the quality of debates, the work of conference officers received fairly high rating. 59 per cent of participants thought the performance of plenary officers to be good and 64 per cent gave the same rating to committee officers. Only 43 per cent of the delegates thought that their own contribution to the debates was good but the observers had a higher opinion of the delegates at 52 per cent. The contribution of observers was rated good by a fairly consistent percentage of only 45 among all participants.

18. Assessment of the secretariat's performance in the debates varied more widely. 58 per cent of delegates and 74 per cent of observers considered the presentation of agenda items to be good but the secretariat's ability to answer questions raised in the discussions received a much lower rating. Only 38 per cent of delegates and 54 per cent of observers thought that good answers had been given.

19. Participants were asked to assess the prospects of the conference in achieving its basic aim of integrated activity in planning, statistics and demography. Only 48 per cent of delegates and 35 per cent of observers thought the prospects to be good and about 11 per cent overall rated the chances as poor.

20. Regarding informal contacts during the period of the conference, 57 per cent of the delegates and 85 per cent of the observers indicated that they had good opportunity for private discussions. The response of the observers to some extent contradicts their complaint about the attendance of African countries.

21. It should be noted that the above interpretation and the data in table 4 do not distinguish between the responses of planners, statisticians and demographers. In table 5 the replies of these three groups are given for a few selected questions in respect of delegates only. There are differences but, at this level of disaggregation, the numbers of respondents are rather small for definite conclusions. Perhaps there is a hint of additional support for the idea that planners are hoping that the conference can be used as a means of improving the relationship between the groups of people concerned with the production and application of data.

Conclusions and action taken

22. In making preparations for the third session of the joint conference, the secretariat took into account the results of the evaluation described above and also a request of the 1982 meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, in resolution 438(XVII), that information and computer specialists should be included as a fourth group within the conference. The main conclusions and action taken are described briefly below.

Attendance

23. The reduced participation of African countries in the second session of the conference was not considered to be an adverse indication of performance. Economic conditions in 1982 were poor and there was difficulty in finding travel funds. Observers had expressed disappointment at the low African participation in the second session, but it was felt that they would probably not reduce their own future attendance on account of this alone.

24. An additional consideration was the slightly improved proportions of planners and demographers at the second session. The change with respect to demographers was explained by poor attendance at the first session, which was held shortly after a meeting of the Conference of African Demographers. In the case of planners, it was believed that there is a real increase of interest in the conference as a co-ordinating instrument and planners are likely to become the predominant group because planning ministries in many countries incorporate statistics and demography.

25. It was decided that contact should be made with all groups of participants well in advance of the formal invitations to enable them to make the necessary budgetary provision.

Documentation

26. To improve the quality of conference documents, a much stricter review procedure was established by the substantive divisions concerned. Except for reports of meetings, it was decided that no paper should exceed 25 pages and that the deadline for the preparation of all drafts should be 30 June 1983 to facilitate this thorough review. In addition, an effort was made to achieve a more integrated approach in preparing the whole body of documentation. The suggestion that countries should be invited to prepare some of the papers was borne in mind when drawing up the list of documents, but was found to be impracticable because of the time constraint.

Debates

27. In order to ensure a concise and clear presentation of agenda items, the secretariat staff responsible have been requested to prepare written statements highlighting the main points for discussion. In answering questions and summarizing conclusions, chiefs of divisions or other suitable persons will assist discussion leaders where necessary.

28. As the quality of debates is also dependent on conference chairmen, it was decided that there should be a meeting of heads of delegations before the opening of the third session of the joint conference for the provisional selection of officers and that they should be given a short preliminary briefing.

Agenda

29. In the light of the view expressed by participants that plenary meetings should occupy only about half the total discussion time available, the agenda was arranged with about eight half-days of plenary meetings and seven for committee meetings.

General

30. It was concluded that, provided the more detailed improvements noted above are made, arrangements for the joint conference are generally satisfactory and no radical changes are needed at the present time. Although it was disappointing that the second session was not significantly better than the first, the overall usefulness and performance of the conference can be determined only after one or two more sessions have been held.

Attendance of African governments at the first two sessions of the Joint Conference

Table 1

Sub region	Total countries	Countries attending		Country participants										Heads of services present			
				Planners		Statis.		Demogs.		Others		Total		Planners		Statis.	
		1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982
North	6	4	2	4	2	4	2	-	2	2	1	10	7	-	-	-	1
West	16	12	12	8	8	13	7	3	4	3	1	27	20	2	3	6	5
Central	11	7	6	11	8	3	6	2	4	6	-	22	18	3	4	3	6
East	17	11	6	8	10	17	10	4	3	6	2	35	25	-	-	7	2
Total	50[1/]	34	26	31	28	37	25	9	13	17	4	94	70	5	7	16	14

1/ Excludes Namibia, Reunior and Western Sahara

Attendance of observers at the first two sessionf of the Joint Conference

Table 2

Kind of representation	Units attending		Planners		Statis.		Demogs.		Others		Total	
	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982	1980	1982
Non-African countries	7	8	3	2	5	7	2	1	5	4	15	14
UN departments and agencies	14	11	6	2	6	13	2	1	4	8	18	24
Inter-governmental organisations	10	11	3	2	6	7	3	1	2	3	14	13
Training centres, etc.	11[1/]	9	2	-	9	7	2	3	-	-	13[1/]	10
Total	42	39	14	6	26	34	9	6	11	15	60	61

1/ Includes the group of senior consultants

Response to the evaluation questionnaire on the second session of the Joint Conference

Table 3

	Planners			Statisticians			Demographers			Others			Total		
	A*	R*	% response	A	R	% response	A	R	% response	A	R	% response	A	R	% response
Delegates	28	17	61	26	20	77	12	7	58	4	0	-	70	44	63
Observers	6	4	67	34	23	68	6	6	100	15	11	73	61	44	72
Total	34	21	62	60	43	72	18	13	72	19	11	58	131	88	67

A* Attendance

R* Replies

Table 4

Evaluation questionnaire (summary responses)

		In percentages Delegates				In percentages Observers				In percentages Total			
		Good	Fair	Poor	Not spec.	Good	Fair	poor	Not spec.	Good	Fair	Poor	Not spec.
I.	Adequacy of attendance												
	1. African countries	36	55	9	-	22	43	28	7	28	49	19	4
	2. Non-African countries	43	35	17	5	48	39	9	4	45	36	14	5
	3. UN agencies	79	19	2	-	78	13	2	7	79	16	2	3
	4. Inter-governmental bodies	64	33	-	3	65	22	9	4	65	27	5	3
	5. Training and research centres	62	29	9	-	59	35	2	4	60	32	6	2
II.	Documentation	Yes	No			Yes	No			Yes	No		
	1. Documents received in time	36	62		2	59	39		2	48	50		2
	2. Enough time for reading	17	83		-	50	46		4	34	64		2
	3. Need for more active country role in preparing documents	86	14		-	85	15		-	85	15		-
III.	Administrative arrangements	Good	Fair	Poor	N/s	Good	Fair	Poor	N/s	Good	Fair	Poor	N/s
	1. Meeting rooms	53	38	7	2	70	26	2	2	63	30	5	2
	2. Hotels	45	5	17	33	61	7	4	28	53	6	10	31
	3. Local transportation	40	21	5	33	52	17	7	24	47	19	6	28
	4. Other (specify)	4	3	26	67	7	2	2	89	6	2	14	78
IV.	Quality of the Conference documents	48	43	2	7	43	46	2	9	45	45	2	8
V.	Agenda	Yes	No			Yes	No			Yes	No		
	1. Did it cover too many topics	76	22		2	72	28		-	74	25		1
	2. Need for more selective approach	81	17		2	83	17		-	82	17		1
	3. Proportion of time to be spent in plenary	50%	65%		80%	50%	65%		80%	50%	65%		80%
		62	36		2	72	26		2	67	31		2

Table 4 (continued)

Evaluation questionnaire (summary responses)	In percentages Delegates				In percentages Observers				In percentages Total			
	Good	Fair	Poor	Not spec.	Good	Fair	Poor	Not spec.	Good	Fair	Poor	Not spec.
VI. Quality of debates												
1. Work of the conference officers:												
Plenary	57	38	5	-	61	28	11	-	59	33	77	1
Committee	62	31	7	-	67	28	2	3	64	30	5	1
2. Contribution of: Delegates	43	50	7	-	52	41	7	-	48	45	7	-
Observers	43	45	12	-	46	45	7	2	45	45	9	1
3. Secretariat's effectiveness in:												
Presenting agenda items	58	40	2	-	74	26	-	-	66	33	1	-
Answering questions raised	38	60	2	-	54	35	7	4	46	46	5	3
VII. Conference's prospects for achieving integration	48	38	12	2	35	50	11	4	41	44	11	4
VIII. Opportunity for informal contacts	57	26	17	-	85	9	2	4	72	17	9	2

Table 5 - Responses of planning, statistics and demography delegates to some selected questions

	Planners				Statisticians				Demographers			
	Good	Fair	Poor	N/s	Good	Fair	Poor	N/s	Good	Fair	Poor	N/s
Adequacy of attendance: African countries	29	53	18	-	44	50	6	-	29	71	-	-
Quality of conference documents	53	47	-	-	44	33	6	17	43	57	-	-
Work of conference officers: Plenary	59	41	-	-	50	39	11	-	71	29	-	-
Committee	59	29	12	-	56	39	5	-	86	14	-	-
Conference's prospects for achieving integration	59	29	6	6	44	33	22	-	29	71	-	-

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Third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers

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UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, STATISTICS AND POPULATION IN AFRICA, 1982-1983

Report by the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

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I. SOME GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Technical co-operation for accelerated development is a critical component of the support provided by the international community through the United Nations to the developing countries for their efforts to expand and diversify their economies and thereby bring about sustained increases in the standards of living of their people. In essence, such co-operation is designed to help alleviate and ultimately eradicate the gaps in technical, managerial and administrative skills prevailing in the developing countries so that capital formation for expanding their productive capacities can proceed smoothly and efficiently.

2. Within the United Nations Secretariat, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) serves as the main channel of technical support to the development efforts of the developing countries in the substantive areas of development planning and policies, development administration, population, natural resources and energy, as well as management of technical co-operation efforts in ocean economics and technology, statistics, popular participation, and social development and humanitarian affairs. Upon request from the interested countries, and within the resources available to it, the Department provides the services of resident advisers for specified time periods as well as of short-term consultants and advisers. It also offers fellowships for training purposes and provides assistance in the selection and procurement of equipment.

3. As is only to be expected, the nature and scope of the technical co-operation activities carried out by the Department has continued to change in the light of the changing requirements of the developing countries and the world economy. In recent years, the international community has repeatedly emphasized the importance and urgent need of special measures in favour of those developing countries that, owing to extraordinary impediments, have lagged behind on the road to economic and social progress. These disadvantaged entities include most of the least developed countries, the land-locked developing countries, the small-island developing countries and the newly-independent developing countries. Thus, in line with the mandates given to it by the governing bodies, the Department has increasingly directed its activities to these countries whose development requirements are especially acute, while ensuring at the same time that it meets the needs of the developing countries that have already achieved a high degree of self-sufficiency for, inter alia, sophisticated technology in specific fields of activity.

4. Since a large majority of these disadvantaged countries are situated in Africa, it follows almost axiomatically that, among the three major developing regions of the world -- namely, Africa, Asia and Latin America -- the share of Africa in the activities of the Department is by far the largest; the share amounted to nearly one half of the total in 1982. The Department has continued to invigorate its efforts to keep abreast of the development problems and requirements of Africa so as to be able to discharge its responsibilities smoothly and efficiently. Close co-operation is maintained for this purpose with the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

5. The funds for the activities carried out by the Department come in the main from the voluntary contributions made by Governments to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Funds in trust from some Governments are also a source. In addition, the Department has access to a very limited amount of funds from the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation which gives priority to the requests

of the least developed countries and to the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries.1/ This small component is utilized largely for the provision by the Department of short-term advisory services through a corps of interregional advisers to the requesting countries; it also finances workshops and training programmes as well as certain pilot projects.

6. The decline in real terms of voluntary contributions has severely constrained during the past year both the number and the scale of activities.2/ The Department's own staffing was reduced by almost two fifths. The problem of shrinking financial resources which has arisen independently of the technical competence and operational capabilities of the Department and other organizations engaged in technical co-operation activities calls for urgent action by the international community.

7. Notwithstanding the current financial constraint, the Department has been doing its utmost to ensure that the core activities are not adversely affected. Particular attention has been given in this regard to improving project design and project-document formulation so as to raise the quality of project activities and their responsiveness to national priorities. In this manner, it has been possible to lessen to some extent the impact on countries in Africa of the drop in the Department's activities.

II. SYNOPSIS OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

8. As mentioned earlier, the Department carries out technical co-operation activities in several substantive areas. However, since the present report is intended solely to provide information in brief on the subjects of concern to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, the following paragraphs are confined to three substantive areas, namely, development planning, statistics and population.3/ The paragraphs aim at indicating the substantive nature and scope of the relevant activities in Africa during the period 1982-1983 4/ rather than their financial and administrative details. Such details are contained in the periodic reports submitted by the Department to its legislative bodies.5/

A. Development planning

1. Overview

9. Through the Development Planning Advisory Branch of its Policy, Programming and Development Planning Division, the Department carries out technical co-operation activities relating to development planning and policies encompassing formulation and implementation of plans for economic and social development at national, sub-national and multinational levels, as well as monitoring, control and evaluation of progress in the implementation of such plans. The work entails development planning, programming and policy execution for various time horizons. Assistance is also provided to Governments in identifying their needs of technical co-operation and in improving the co-ordination of scarce external inputs in the context of UNDP country programmes.

10. Technical co-operation relating to development planning and policies currently represents about a quarter of the total monetary value of the Department's activities. Africa accounts for nearly half of the amount allocated for development planning and policies.

11. During the period 1982-1983, the Department was responsible for the execution of 53 technical co-operation projects in Africa dealing with aspects of development planning and policies. Fifty of these projects were at the level of individual countries, and three at the regional (multinational) level. As indicated in table 1, the 50-country-level projects were spread out in 34 African countries, a majority of which have been included by the United Nations General Assembly in the list of the least developed among the developing countries.

Table 1. Development planning and related projects of DTCD in operation in Africa in December 1983

Country	Project number	Main field of activity	Starting & ending dates	Total budget ($000)	1983 budget ($000)
AFRICA					
Regional	RAF/81/059	River basin planning	1982-1986	2,469	640
Regional	RAF/82/002	River basin planning	1982-1986	1,528	344
Regional	RAF/83/030	Multinational planning	1983-1986	399	23
Angola	ANG/82/W02	Integration of women	1983-1985	216	134
Benin	BEN/77/006	National planning	1977-1983	1,939	243
Benin	BEN/83/001	Donors' round table	1983	93	93
Botswana	BOT/79/002	National planning	1980-1985	264	55
Cape Verde	CVI/83/W01	Integration of women	1983-1985	61	61
Chad	CHD/76/007	National planning	1977-1984	772	17
Chad	CHD/82/002	National reconstruction	1982-1984	1,268	733
Congo	PRC/83/002	National planning	1982-1985	502	206
Equatorial Guinea	EQG/82/001	National planning	1983-1985	675	57
Equatorial Guinea	EQG/82/006	Regional planning	1982-1983	169	163
Gambia	GAM/82/005	National planning	1982-1985	1,156	435
Ghana	GHA/72/009	Economics fellowships	1972-1983	698	61
Ghana	GHA/82/010	National planning (preparatory assistance)	1983	180	180
Ghana	GHA/82/026	National planning	1983-1985	1,061	339
Guinea	GUI/78/007	National planning	1980-1984	581	205
Guinea	GUI/79/001	Project planning	1981-1983	561	78
Guinea-Bissau	GBS/82/001	National planning	1982-1983	100	88
Guinea-Bissau	GBS/77/003	National planning	1978-1983	1,059	171

Table 1 (cont'd)

Country	Project number	Main field of activity	Starting & ending dates	Total budget ($000)	1983 budget ($000)
Lesotho	LES/81/T39	National planning	1981-1984	94	42
Liberia	LIR/71/515	Resource planning	1977-1984	1,026	20
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	LIB/82/001	National planning	1982-1986	6,918	1,445
Madagascar	MAG/82/817	Rural development	1981-1983	19	3
Malawi	MLW/81/032	National planning	1982-1985	2,369	608
Mali	MLI/82/002	National planning	1982-1985	2,226	822
Mali	MLI/82/017	Population resettlement	1982-1984	261	235
Mauritania	MAU/82/001	Social assistance	1982-1985	408	212
Mauritius	MAR/79/006	National planning	1979-1986	295	25
Niger	NER/82/013	National planning	1982-1985	1,307	395
Nigeria	NIR/82/002	Regional planning	1983-1985	1,920	717
Rwanda	RWA/77/009	Project planning	1980-1986	2,362	344
Rwanda	RWA/78/007	National planning	1979-1986	2,641	332
Senegal	SEN/82/023	National planning	1982-1986	1,095	501
Senegal	SEN/82/012	River basin planning	1983-1984	40	35
Senegal	SEN/82/016	Regional planning	1982-1985	844	328
Sierra Leone	SIL/79/003	National planning and implementation	1979-1984	1,578	205
Somalia	SOM/82/002	National planning	1982-1986	5,861	992
Sudan	SUD/78/012	Regional planning	1978-1986	772	158
Swaziland	SWA/81/001	National planning	1981-1984	183	64
Togo	TOG/79/001	Regional planning	1980-1984	1,404	436
Tunisia	TUN/82/004	National planning	1982-1984	234	87
Tunisia	TUN/82/008	National planning	1983-1985	172	69
United Republic of Tanzania	URT/78/002	National planning	1978-1984	1,626	233
United Republic of Tanzania	URT/78/006	Rural development	1979-1984	1,360	444
United Republic of Tanzania	URT/81/001	Regional planning	1981-1984	1,753	959
Upper Volta	UPV/79/005	Regional planning	1979-1984	1,442	195
Upper Volta	UPV/82/010	National planning	1982-1986	1,267	287

Table 1 (cont'd)

Country	Project number	Main field of activity	Starting & ending dates	Total budget ($000)	1983 budget ($000)
Zaire	ZAI/79/002	National planning	1979-1985	4,033	1,042
Zambia	ZAM/77/009	National planning	1979-1983	1,193	179
Zambia	ZAM/82/026	Planning institute	1983-1986	1,036	165
Zimbabwe	ZIM/80/006	National planning	1982-1984	1,142	82

12. The projects were executed in large part with the assistance of internationally-recruited personnel. Where appropriate, in addition to long-term resident advisers, shorter-term consultancy services were also utilized to help carry out specialized tasks. Fellowships were provided to a substantial number of qualified African professionals for training or study aborad 6/.

13. The Department also provided shorter-term advisory services to African countries on key aspects of development planning and policies through its own group of inter-regional advisers. Substantive backstopping of the projects was undertaken by the Department through its technical advisers and regular staff.

2. Salient characteristics

14. The information assembled in table 1 shows that assistance for national planning has been a major concern of the Governments in Africa. Indeed, around three fifths of the country-level projects listed in the table belong to this category. By and large, assistance has been required for the preparation of medium-term development plans and, as part and parcel of this activity, for the strengthening of national capabilities to carry out a wide variety of planning tasks. Progress has been made in this respect, but many gaps in the available skills still remain, particularly in the least developed countries. Increasingly, the need for the efficient implementation of development plans and programmes has come to the fore.

15. Sectoral planning is a major component of most national planning projects. The underlying work has required expertise for the development of both physical production and human talents. Thus, the sectoral planning has dealt not only with agricultural, industrial and infrastructure development but also with improvement of social amenities. In general, the project posts for sectoral planning are subcontracted by the Department to the appropriate specialized organizations of the United Nations system.

16. Sub-national planning has been receiving increasing attention in recent years. Whether referred to as regional planning or as integrated rural development, more and more Governments have been stressing the importance of balanced development of various zones within countries, with a keen eye on the need to promote the development of backward or lagging areas. In 1983, the Department executed 14 projects in Africa aimed at "regional" (subnational) development, including rural development, river basin development and population resettlement. In addition, several of national planning projects have had specific activities directed to "regional" development.

17. Assistance for project planning, including project elaboration, evaluation and management, has been given by the Department to two countries in Africa, Guinea and Rwanda. Furthermore, project planning has been undertaken in several countries as part of the assistance for national planning. In Benin, notably, the Department has co-operated with the Government in introducing a complete project management system, covering the three interrelated phases of programming, execution and control.

18. Short-term planning is an essential element of the planning process. It is through annual plans and development budgets that medium-term development plans get implemented. In recent years, because of many economic uncertainties, including those relating to the external economic environment, the need for short-term planning has become all the more urgent. As part of the national planning work, assistance has been provided to several countries in strengthening the mechanisms and procedures for annual planning.

19. In addition to the execution of specific projects relating to development planning, the Department co-operated with the Governments of Ghana, the Libyan Arab Socialist People's Jamahiriya, Nigeria and Uganda in the preparation of their UNDP country programmes of technical co-operation for the period 1982-1986. These exercises, which were carried out on the basis of the objectives and priorities specified in their national development plans, helped to identify the technical co-operation requirements of the Governments in respect of all relevant areas of development work and increased the potential of the UNDP country programmes as a frame of reference for all operational activities.

20. A new activity initiated by the Department in 1983 concerns the dissemination of experience and information relating to development planning and policies. In 1983, the Department organized three interregional workshops on aspects of development planning. The workshops were designed to serve as forums for exchange of substantive experience and information among national planning officials of the developing countries facing special development constraints. The first two workshops were intended for the benefit largely of the least developed countries. One workshop comprising English-speaking officials was held in Lesotho from 12 to 22 April 1983; it dealt with the theme of efficient implementation of development plans. The second workshop consisting of French-speaking officials was convened in Benin from 30 May to 4 June 1983; its discussions focused on macroeconomic follow-up and control of development plans. The third workshop, which was devoted to an examination of the major development problems and policy needs of small island economies (including those situated near the coast of Africa) was held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from 7 to 11 November 1983. In order to assist a wide reading audience, especially of planning officials in developing countries, the Department intends to publish the proceedings of these three workshops.

B. Statistics

1. Overview

21. In Africa, the objective to build strong statistical organizations has been often difficult to attain, and statistical offices generally operate with inadequate human and financial resources. External assistance therefore plays an important part in strengthening the statistical efforts of African countries.

22. The Statistical Office of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA) provides substantive support to the technical co-operation projects for which the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) is responsible. For projects in Africa, the Statistical Office works closely with the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

2. Country projects

23. As increasing demands are made for reliable statistics for development planning, countries have sought ways to improve their capability to provide such data. They have requested assistance generally to strengthen their statistical services, and specifically in such specialized areas as national accounts, trade statistics, population and housing statistics, civil registration, household surveys, industrial statistics, price statistics, and computer processing of collected data. Country projects may deal with one aspect or many, with elements of assistance including expert services, associate experts and volunteers, in-service training of staff, fellowships for study abroad, and assistance in determining specifications of suitable types of equipment needed for implementing the projects, the procurement of such supplies and equipment, including computer hardware and software.

24. In December 1983, as indicated in table 2, 61 statistical projects were in operation in 35 African countries. The projects employed 48 experts in various fields of statistics and data processing. During the period 1982-1983, fellowships were awarded to 66 individuals for study abroad of varied durations. These fellowships represent provision for training in country projects and are in addition to the training activities in statistics mentioned later in the present section.

25. Compared to earlier years, owing to financial constraints, there was a decline overall in country statistical programmes and specifically in the number of experts employed. Related to this is the growing tendency for some countries to request the services of short-term consultants instead of long-term resident experts. As these countries develop expertise in specific areas of statistics, short-term consultancies may provide the required advisory services at critical stages of the work. The technical advisers and staff in the substantive branches of the Statistical Office, along with regional advisers of ECA often supplement these. At the same time, other countries finding themselves with chronic shortages of trained staff have sought to fill the gap by requesting the services of associate experts and/or volunteers. These measures have succeeded to some extent in alleviating the effects of financial constraints of funding agencies.

26. Cape Verde, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as the project for establishing a statistical unit in the United Nations Institute for Namibia located in Zambia, were receiving assistance in respect of statistical organization and national accounts as of December 1983. However, some countries with a growing national capability were phasing out the external technical assistance. Some projects are particularly designed for training nationals. Often a project related to a statistical organization encompasses the activities related to several branches of statistics, such as national accounts, economic statistics, industrial statistics, statistical training, data processing as well as demographic and social statistics.

27. As of December 1983, 39 demographic and social statistics projects were being executed, 27 of which were related to population and housing censuses, 7 to civil registration and 5 to the conduct of demographic surveys. Thirteen African countries, namely, Angola, Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, Zaire and Zimbabwe, received technical assistance in various forms for undertaking the enumeration activities of the population and housing censuses. Of these, Angola, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Morocco, Sudan and Zimbabwe carried out their census enumeration during the reporting period. The rest were completing the preparatory work for such enumeration. Several African countries have requested assistance in conducting censuses during the next few years. Technical assistance for civil registration was provided during the period under review to Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Niger, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania. Assistance relating to demographic surveys was provided to Benin, Liberia, Malawi and Somalia. The project in Liberia was used also to complete the preparatory census cartographic work.

28. Requests for assistance in data processing exclusively directed towards development of data processing capabilities, as well as in conjunction with population census and statistical organization projects, continue to increase as countries realize the benefits available from applying computer technology to processing and compiling statistical data. The trend continued in smaller African countries towards the acquisition of mini and micro computers. Micro computer systems were used to complete population censuses in Cape Verde, the Comoros and Sao Tome; to process demographic data in Malawi; and to support demographic research and training activities in Mauritania and Upper Volta. Mini-computer facilities were introduced at the Cairo Demographic Centre in Egypt for use in training, research and processing of demographic data. Computer components were included in statistical and census projects in Angola, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia and Libya; and assistance has continued in Benin, Congo, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo and Zambia. New computer installations were requested in Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan. In some countries, such as Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi and Zambia, the existing mini micro computer systems have been or are being upgraded. There are currently 27 projects in Africa which include statistical data-processing activities and a total of 9 consultants and experts in the field of data processing attached to these projects.

Table 2. Statistical projects of DTCD in operation in Africa in December 1983

Country	Project number	Main field of activity	Total budget ($000)	1983 budget ($000)
Angola	ANG/78/P01	Population census	438,315	127,500
Benin	BEN/72/P02	Population	1,318,587	40,546
Benin	BEN/79/P01	Demographic sampling	241,228	175,810
Benin	BEN/79/013	Assistance INSAE	214,000	214,000
Botswana	BOT/78/P01	Population housing	838,747	58,280
Burundi	BDI/71/P01	Population census	1,353,534	1
Burundi	BDI/78/P02	Civil registration	411,657	115,491
Cape Verde	CVI/77/P01	Population census	701,193	112,177
Cape Verde	CVI/83/008	Strengthening of statistics	298,080	120,050
Comoros	COI/77/P01	Population census	713,588	88,888
Comoros	COI/79/020	Central Statistical Office	466,733	173,708
Congo	PRC/82/P01	Population and housing census	70,112	71,112
Equatorial Guinea	EQG/80/002	Strengthening of statistical system	509,077	207,940
Equatorial Guinea	EQG/80/P01	Population census	802,889	295,138
Ethiopia	ETH/80/004	Strengthening of Central Statistical Office	294,458	-21,445
Ethiopia	ETH/81/P02	Population and housing census	438,030	128,670
Gabon	GAB/77/P02	Population census	716,610	-4,032
Gambia	GAM/73/009	Strengthening of statistics	698,846	24,300
Gambia	GAM/80/P01	Population census	221,484	108,632
Ghana	GHA/78/P01	Population census	696,542	409,547
Ghana	GHA/78/006	Technical services support	1,635,638	400,291
Guinea	GUI/77/P01	Population census	1,289,265	99,506
Guinea	GUI/78/010	National Information Centre	1,718,477	246,887
Guinea-Bissau	GBS/81/002	Demographic and social statistics	212,823	18,600
Kenya	KEN/79/P04	Civil registration	773,115	201,622
Liberia	LIR/79/P01	Demographic survey	705,772	141,506
Liberia	LIR/82/P01	Population census	359,550	201,030

Table 2 (cont'd)

Country	Project number	Main field of activity	Total budget ($000)	1983 budget ($000)
Malawi	MLW/74/P01	Population census	737,993	78,981
Malawi	MLW/78/P01	Labour survey	123,921	88,109
Malawi	MLW/80/014	Training	71,548	7,150
Malawi	MLW/81/003	Statistical development	1,834,000	694,250
Malawi	MLW/82/X02	National statistical system	47,989	11,604
Mali	MLI/82/015	Household surveys	394,438	261,792
Mauritania	MAU/75/010	Training	169,900	11,000
Morocco	MOR/80/P03	Cartography	493,482	93,817
Morocco	MOR/83/002	Household surveys	214,000	214,000
Mozambique	MOZ/79/P01	Population census	947,758	165,464
Namibia	NAM/79/T26	Statistical Unit	154,819	5,650
Namibia	NAM/81/X01	Statistical Office	87,619	42,308
Nigeria	NIR/80/P02	Computer management	286,148	116,500
Niger	NER/80/P04	Civil registration	221,000	110,000
Rwanda	RWA/74/T01	Population census	2,037,963	153,728
Rwanda	RWA/79/P03	Post census survey	306,259	11,052
Sao Tome	STP/76/P01	Population census	444,985	52,807
Sierra Leone	SIL/79/P03	Civil registration	338,361	103,710
Sierra Leone	SIL/79/002	Strengthening of Central Statistical Organization	1,558,162	303,200
Somalia	SOM/80/P01	Demographic survey capability	661,619	142,547
Somalia	SOM/80/P02	Population and housing census	187,663	5,114
Somalia	SOM/80/P03	Civil registration	105,945	-
Somalia	SOM/83/X01	Demographic survey capability	233,792	233,792
Somalia	SOM/83/X02	Population census	103,020	103,020
Sudan	SUD/79/P01	Population and housing census	1,405,693	197,271
Swaziland	SWA/78/P03	Civil registration	265,660	91,141
Togo	TOG/79/P01	Population census	935,023	120,360
U.R.of Tanzania	URT/79/P04	Processing of population census	331,306	69,296
U.R.of Tanzania	URT/79/P05	Civil registration	382,197	83,512
Zaire	ZAI/76/P01	Population census	2,079,494	614,556
Zambia	ZAM/76/P02	Population census	1,276,629	89,909
Zambia	ZAM/77/010	Asst. to Dept. of Census	1,012,037	249,693
Zimbabwe	ZIM/80/010	Training	432,679	157,000
Zimbabwe	ZIM/81/P02	Population census	461,136	194,225

3. Global activities

29. Global programmes consist of (i) the services provided through interregional advisers, (ii) the Shipping Statistics Project, (iii) the Computer Software Development Project, (iv) the National Household Survey Capability Programme, (v) the On-the job Statistical Training Project under programmes relating to technical co-operation among developing countries, and (vi) the training courses for statisticians conducted by the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) under rouble financing.

30. Currently, there are two interregional advisers, one in computer methods and the other in demographic and social statistics, who are based at Headquarters and provide advisory services at the invitation of countries. A third adviser, in economic statistics, and in particular external trade, was available during part of the period on an ad hoc basis. During 1982-1983 several African countries received substantive support through them. In addition, Headquarters-based technical advisers provided support to the country projects.

31. The Shipping Statistics Project has two objectives. One objective is to update the results of a United Nations Pilot study published in October 1976 which contains 35 matrices, each matrix representing a category of commodities homogeneous in characteristics of ocean carriage. They are compiled mostly on the basis of the existing available international trade statistics. Such results, when updated, would meet the need to understand the current demand pattern of shipping services of the world. The other objective is to promote in developing countries a uniform system of collecting economic statistics of shipping. The system proposes linking the movement of commodities to the movement of ships which carry individual commodities. Basically, it amounts to the marriage of the information available on the customs documentation with that on the documents of port authorities. During the period under review, preparations for adapting the uniform system are being made in Egypt, Ivory Coast and Kenya.

32. The Software and Support for Population Activities Project, which is entirely supported by UNFPA, provides simple computer software packages for processing population data. UNEDIT provides data edit capability. XTALLY and COXTALLY -- a COBOL version of XTALLY including some useful improvements -- provide summary cross-tabulation facilities. MULVAN is a multivariate analysis package featuring step-wise regression analysis. LOGSIM enables construction of simple logistics models for supporting management and planning. During the period 1981-1983, the project trained staff members from 5 African countries at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

33. In December 1983, a training workshop for French-speaking African countries was conducted in Tunis. A similar workshop for English-speaking African countries is expected to be organized in 1984 or 1985.

34. The National Household Survey Capability Programme is a major technical co-operation effort in statistics at the global level. Co-sponsored by the United Nations, UNDP and the World Bank and supported by UNFPA, UNICEF and a number of bilateral donors, the programme helps interested developing countries build up the infrastructure and requisite skills to undertake continuing household surveys for obtaining the statistical data they need for their development plans, policies and administration. The regional counterpart of this project in Africa is the African Household Survey Capability Programme. Eleven countries of Africa have started implementing the Programme during the biennium 1982-1983. Several others are expected to join in the near future.

35. The On-thejob Statistical Training Programme is a project designed to train young and inexperienced professionals of the national statistical office of one developing country in another developing country suitably chosen. The training is on-the-job in a specialized field related to statistical activities including data processing and computer processing. The programme is interpreted as technical co-operation among developing countries. Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan, as well as Namibia, have already benefitted from the programme. A request from Congo has been forwarded to a host country. Fellowships have also been provided to persons in Angola, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Upper Volta to participate in a COXTALLY workshop organized by the Software Development project in Tunis in December 1983. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in locating suitable host countries which are willing to collaborate.

36. Two statistical training courses are conducted at the Agricultural Institute in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, USSR. During the period under review, there were 8 participants from Africa in these courses: one from Burundi, and two each from Egypt and Morocco for the course in economic statistics; and one each from Burundi, Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania for the course on the collection and processing of statistics.

B. Population

1. Overview

37. The Population Programmes and Projects Branch in the Development Administration Division of DTCD supports projects relating to demographic and associated training, evaluation and analysis of population census and demographic survey data and vital statistics, and population policy and development planning. The Branch also assists the UNFPA in conducting country needs assessments and in project formulation.

38. This Branch of DTCD and the Statistical Office of DIESA share responsibility for substantive support to many census and related projects, with the Statistical Office assisting in the collection and tabulation of data and the Branch assisting in demographic evaluation and analysis (including the preparation of total and sectoral population projections) and associated training requirements. This combination of capabilities helps to ensure an integrated approach to the taking of censuses, and enhances the usefulness of their results.

39. During 1982-1983, as indicated in table 3, DTCD provided technical support to 64 population projects (most of which were UNFPA-funded) in 38 African countries, including 24 countries classified as least developed. Of these 64 projects, 29 were the analysis components of the census projects listed under the heading of statistics in table 2. The services of approximately 50 resident advisers, as well as of several short-term consultants, were provided to assist in project implementation. During the 1982-1983 period, 15 missions were undertaken by Headquarters-based advisers in response to requests addressed to DTCD either directly by Governments or through the UNFPA. In addition, 190 population study awards were made available to nationals from 36 African countries. Of these 159 were for study at the United Nations regional and interregional demographic training centres, and 31 at non-UN institutions (see table 4).

40. In line with normal practice, DTCD carried out its mandates in Africa relating to population in collaboration with ECA. In addition to keeping ECA regularly informed of its population programmes and projects, DTCD often calls upon ECA to supplement the Headquarters and country expert services with the regional advisory services of ECA and the regional training and research centres, such as the Regional Institute for Population Studies (Accra, Ghana), Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (Yaoundé, United Republic of Cameroon), and Cairo Democratic Centre. Such collaboration continues to produce beneficial results.

4. Training in demography and population

41. Efforts in 1982-1983 were directed towards developing local institutional capacities in demographic training and research and in multiplying the outreach effect of these country-level institutions on a multi-country basis through the offering of training opportunities to ex-host country nationals of the region as well as, to a lesser extent, through the practice of technical co-operation among developing countries. The full development of the Ivory Coast demographic training project, for instance, which continued to serve the needs in this substantive area of a number of francophone countries in West Africa has been paralleled by similar, more recent undertakings in Morocco and for an English-speaking African country, namely, Botswana.

Table 3. Population projects of DTCD in operation in Africa in 1982-1983

Country	Project number	Main field of activity	Budget ($000) Total	1983
Benin	BEN/79/P01	Demographic survey (analysis)	*	*
	BEN/72/P02	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Botswana	BOT/78/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*
	BOT/78/P03	Training programme in demography	312,385	69,502
Burundi	BDI/71/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*
	BDI/78/P03	Population Training Centre	484,581	158,724
	BDI/79/X02	Associate expert in demography	-	-
Cape Verde	CVI/77/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Central African Republic	CAF/72/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Comoros	COI/77/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Djibouti	DJI/79/P01	Population census (analysis)	721,478	*
Egypt	EGY/76/P05	Communication and Education	144,597	18,070
	EGY/81/P14	Strengthening CAPMAS capability	209,000	104,330
Equatorial Guinea	EQG/80/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Ethiopia	ETH/81/P04	Demographic Training Centre	434,600	100,200
Gabon	GAB/77/P02	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Gambia	GAM/80/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Guinea	GUI/77/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*

Table 3 (cont'd)

Country	Project number	Main field of activity	Budget ($000) Total	1985
Guinea-Bissau	GBS/81/002	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Ivory Coast	IVC/82/P01	Demographic training	609,309	65,717
	IVC/82/P30	Demographic training at INSEA	222,603	40,103
Kenya	KEN/74/P03	Family planning evaluation	439,309	-
	KEN/77/P01	Population census (analysis)	554,655	-
Liberia	LIR/79/P01	Demographic survey	*	*
	LIR/82/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Malawi	MLW/74/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Mali	MLI/73/P01	Population	1,971,847	-
Mauritania	MAU/72/P02	Population census (analysis)	1,539,992	-
	MAU/80/P03	Demographic Centre	953,346	248,409
Mauritius	MAR/82/P01	Population census (fellowships)	30,000	-
Morocco	MOR/80/P09	National Institute of Applied Statistics and Economics	231,146	92,458
	MOR/80/P10	Centre for Demographic Research	375,548	46,120
Mozambique	MOZ/79/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*
	MOZ/83/P03	Analysis of internal migration	-	130,300
Niger	NER/72/P01	Population census (analysis)	1,697,281	-
Nigeria	NIR/74/P03	Teaching economic demography	333,685	500
Rwanda	RWA/74/P01	Population census(analysis)	*	*
	RWA/80/P03	National Population Office	220,799	132,647
Sao Tome and Principe	STP/82/P02	Population census (analysis)	71,300	32,600
Senegal	SEN/77/P04	Population planning	665,959	188,591
	SEN/78/P04	Population unit	362,803	10,021
Sierra Leone	SIL/78/P02	Population census (analysis)	236,211	-
Somalia	SOM/80/P04	Demographic studies	427,103	116,427
Sudan	SUD/79/P02	Demographic studies	123,386	21,481
	SUD/79/P04	Population Studies Centre	420,098	184,339
Togo	TOG/79/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	*
	TOG/80/P01	Population training and research	293,399	102,672
	TOG/82/X02	Associate expert in demography	-	-
Uganda	UGA/75/P01	Population research and training	190,284	-

Table 3 (cont'd)

Country	Project number	Main field of activity	Budget ($000) Total	1983
United Republic of Tanzania	URT/79/P04	Population census (analysis)	*	*
	URT/79/P12	Population studies	97,615	-
Upper Volta	UPV/79/P01	Population and development	214,875	4,180
	UPV/79/P03	Demography and development	437,201	27,909
	UPV/79/P08	Study of traditional beliefs	259,536	21,508
	UPV/83/F01	Population unit	431,767	87,615
Zaire	ZAI/76/P01	Population census (analysis)	*	
q	ZAI/78/P02	Demography curriculum	272,836	46,500
Zambia	ZAM/76/P02	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Zimbabwe	ZIM/81/P02	Population census (analysis)	*	*
Africa Interregional	GLO/76/P12	Population fellowships	1,164,211	109,847
	GLO/76/P35	Demographic training at Moscow University	282,610	99,005
	INT/73/P58	UN - Romania Demographic Centre	2,994,656	441,323
	INT/76/P08	Cairo Demographic Centre	5,002,137	781,618
	INT/80/X03-4	Associate experts	-	-

* See table 2

Table 4. Number of United Nations fellowships (new or extended) to nationals of African countries on population aspects

Country	At United Nations-Centres					At Non-U.N. Centres	Total
	Regional		Interregional				
	RIPS	IFORD	CDC	CEDOR	UN/USSR Programme		
Algeria		2		1			3
Angola				1			1
Benin		4		1		1	6
Botswana	1				1		2
Burundi		1				2	3
Chad		3					3
Congo		2		2			4
Egypt			32		2	2	36
Ethiopia	1		3			5	9
Gabon		1					1
Ghana	8					1	9
Guinea		1		1		1	3
Ivory Coast		4		1			5
Kenya	3						3
Lesotho	1		2				3
Liberia	3				3	1	7
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya			1			1	2
Madagascar		3					3
Mali		4					4
Mauritania		1				2	3
Mauritius					1		1
Morocco				2		1	3
Nigeria			1		2		3
Rwanda		2		2		1	5
Senegal		2	2			1	5
Sierra Leone	2		1		2		5
Somalia			3				3
Sudan			10			4	14
Swaziland	1						1
Togo		1				4	5
Uganda	1		2		1	1	5
United Republic of Cameroon		7		2			9
United Republic of Tanzania			3		1		4
Upper Volta		3				2	5
Zaire		3	2	1		1	7
Zambia	4				1		5
TOTAL	25	44	62	14	14	31	190

Key to table:
RIPS = Regional Institute for Population Studies, Accra, Ghana
IFORD = Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques, Yaoundé, Cameroon
CDC = Cairo Demographic Centre, Cairo, Egypt
CEDOR = Centre démographique ONU-Roumanie, Boucharest, Romania
UN/URSS Programme = United Nations/U.S.S.R. Interregional Demographic Training and Research Programme in Population and Development Planning, Moscow, USSR

42. Twelve national demographic training and research projects were supported by DTCD during 1982-1983 with four senior and two junior resident advisers helping to ensure the implementation of project activities with their period of service overlapping with nationals receiving advanced demographic training abroad. Of the four senior resident advisers, three were from developing countries themselves: this fact is indicative of the growing emphasis on technical co-operation among developing countries. The implementation of two entirely new projects - one in Morocco and the other in Ethiopia - as well as the revival of a project in Uganda that had been suspended for some time, pointed to a continuing urgent need for the establishment of a more extended demographic training and research network in Africa.

43. Within the resources available to it, DTCD will continue to respond to requests from countries to put demographic training and research on an institutional footing. In this context, wherever possible, co-operation among developing countries will be promoted. Emphasis will be put on the interrelationship between population and development variables at all levels of training and research, so that those receiving training contribute effectively to the achievement of development goals.

3. Evaluation and analysis of population and demographic data

44. The analysis of the data from population censuses and demographic surveys constituted the largest component of projects supported by DTCD in Africa. During 1982-1983, DTCD provided such assistance for 37 projects in 33 countries. The number of projects supported in this field has not shown any significant change since 1982. A total of 13 advisers provided a wide range of services including determination of the accuracy of census coverage, assessment of the quality of tabulated data, estimation of fertility and mortality levels by direct methods in some cases, the analysis of migration trends and the preparation of population projections for regions and localities for sectoral planning. Many of these advisers also assisted in organizing in-house training courses in techniques of demographic analysis for local staff.

45. At the conclusion of the first-stage analysis of the population censuses, several countries indicated that their needs concerning demographic analysis had not been fully met and that further assistance was required. In these instances, it was felt that more in-depth analysis of particular demographic topics or the preparation of sectoral and subnational population projections was needed.

46. Two new trends became apparent during the period. One was the increasing use made of post-census seminars to discuss among data users and producers the implications of the census analysis findings and to disseminate them for development planning and other uses. For many census analysis projects supported by DTCD in Africa during 1982-1983, provision had been made for such seminars.

47. The other new trend had been DTCD's effort to increase the capacity of African countries to evaluate and analyse demographic data through the use of computer software programmes. For this purpose, in 1983 DTCD prepared a publication entitled Computer Software Programs for Demographic Analysis: Aspects of Technical Co-operation 7/, which examines the capabilities and limitations of adapting existing software programmes for demographic analysis and preparation of population estimates and projections to fit specific minicomputers or microcomputers. The publication has been distributed to many African countries, and it has generated considerable interest among those concerned with promoting the transfer of computer knowledge and skills to developing nations.

48. To enhance the practical utility of the software programmes for future demographic evaluation and analysis, DTCD plans to test, edit and adapt the main demographic programmes to specific computer configurations in several countries and to train national personnel in this field. It is anticipated that before the end of the 1980s adequate national capabilities will have been developed in many African countries to undertake data analysis and evaluation with limited external assistance. However, a wide gap still exists between the collection of data from population censuses and surveys and the analysis and utilization of data. Greater support is needed for the development and application of analytical techniques for the measurement and analysis of population phenomena and dissemination of demographic and related data for planning.

4. Population policy and development planning

49. Recent DTCD-assisted projects relating to links between population and development may be grouped into three categories: (a) demographic and socio-economic studies, with emphasis on the relationships between demographic phenomena (fertility, mortality and migration levels and trends) and socio-economic and cultural factors; (b) the incorporation of demographic factors in development planning; and (c) the strengthening of national institutions and, especially, the establishment of population units or centres for population policy formulation and development planning. Ten country projects were operational in 1982-1983: one each in Burundi, Mauritania, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania; two in Senegal; and four in Upper Volta. DTCD provided five advisers and several short-term consultants to help the Governments implement these projects. Two other country projects -- one in Cape Verde and the other in Niger -- have been formulated and are expected to become operational early in 1984.

50. In Burundi, DTCD recently assisted the Government in establishing a Centre of Demographic Studies for Development Planning. In Mauritania, DTCD has continued to assist in operating the Centre for Demographic and Social Studies which is designed to carry out demographic studies for development planning and population policy formulation. In Rwanda, DTCD assistance strengthened the National Population Office, whose activities include research and studies and training programmes aimed at providing input for the formulation and implementation of population policies (including family planning) and the integration of demographic factors in development planning; this office is also the technical secretariat of the National Commission of Population. In Senegal, one project has assisted in the establishment of a Population Unit as the technical secretariat of the National Commission of Population, whose function is to assist the Government in taking population changes into account in development planning and in the formulation and evaluation of population policies; a second project is for support to a study on the interaction between population changes and regional and physical planning. In Upper Volta, projects have been concerned with the establishment of a data bank comprising demographic, social and economic data; studies on the interaction between population changes and development factors; and a study of cultural and traditional aspects of fertility, mortality and migration. Recently, DTCD has further assisted in the establishment of a Population Unit for the Integration of Population and Development Planning in Upper Volta.

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS

51. The preceding chapter has provided a synoptic view of the nature and scope of the technical co-operation activities carried out by DTCD in Africa during the period 1982-1983 in the substantive areas of development planning, statistics and population. In accordance with the development objectives and priorities established by the Governments of the interested countries, these activities have sought to strengthen their individual and collective self-reliance in designing and executing a wide array of development tasks.

52. It is a continuing endeavour of DTCD to respond energetically, within the financial resources available to it and in accordance with its mandates, to requests from Governments of developing countries for technical co-operation in the substantive areas of its competence. What the climate for financial resources will be, only the future will tell. However, for its part as an executing agency, the Department stands ready to discharge its responsibilities efficiently.

Notes

1/ In 1982, the United Nations as a whole delivered a technical co-operation programme totalling about $303 million. The Department's programme delivery was $127 million, of which $85 million came from UNDP, $19 million from UNFPA, $16 million from trust funds, and $7 million from the United Nations Regular Programme. See "United Nations Technical Co-operation Activities": report of the Secretary-General (DP/1983/18).

2/ As a result of the decrease in financing available from UNDP and UNFPA, its main funding partners, the value of the Programme delivered by the Department declined in monetary terms from about $137 million in 1981 to about $127 million in 1982. Ibid.

3/ These three substantive areas currently account for about two fifths of the total value of technical co-operation extended by the Department to the developing countries.

4/ Similar information for the period 1980-1981 was supplied to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers at its Second Session, which was held in March 1982. See "Technical Assistance in development planning, statistics and population": report prepared by the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (E/UN.14/PSD.2).

5/ The most recent report of the Department is contained in the document mentioned in footnote 1 above.

6/ For example, provisional data show that, in the framework of DTCD's projects on development planning, 115 African professionals went on fellowships and study tours in 1983 for a total of over 900 man months.

7/ United Nations publication; Sales No. 83.II.A 5 (available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish).